

FROM GENERAL McCLELLAN'S ARMY.
THE OFFENSIVE RESUMED.
Reconnoissance Within Ten Miles
of Richmond.

THE REBELS DRIVEN FROM THREE POSITION.
1583 PRISONERS TAKEN.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1862.

The Army of the Potomac has again assumed the offensive.

The reconnaissance made yesterday, under General Hooker, to Malvern Hill, White Oak Swamp Bridge, and in the direction of New-Market and Richmond, was in every respect a complete success.

The troops left camp about dark night before last, arriving at Malvern Hill at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, a distance of ten miles. Here they encountered two regiments of infantry and a battery, posted behind earthworks. Fire was immediately opened on them by Capt. Benson's battery and a section of Capt. Robinson's.

The infantry was not engaged. The firing lasted about three hours, when the Rebels ingloriously fled by the river road toward Richmond, hotly pursued by our troops, who succeeded in taking 100 of them prisoners.

The loss on our side at this point was 3 killed and 11 wounded. Capt. Benson had his thigh broken by a piece of shell. The doctors think the leg can be saved. Lieut.-Col. Gamble of the 8th Illinois cavalry was severely wounded in the breast while driving in the enemy's pickets.

Col. Averill, with 500 cavalry, took the Quaker road to White Oak Swamp bridge. There they found the 10th Virginia Cavalry drawn up to receive them. A charge was immediately ordered, which broke the Rebel lines, when they fled. Col. Averill followed them three miles, taking 28 prisoners, without losing a man.

Gen. Pleasonton, with a force of cavalry, took the New-Market Road, on which a portion of the Rebels were retreating. He followed them to within a short distance of New-Market, where, meeting two brigades of Rebels, he fell back, bringing over 30 prisoners taken on the way. New-Market is ten miles from Richmond.

This ended the operations for the day, when the troops went into camp on Malvern Hill.

Gen. McClellan, who went to the scene of action early yesterday morning, has not returned.

Three thousand of our prisoners will arrive to-day from Richmond, in exchange for a similar number sent up on Monday.

Everything is quiet on the opposite side of the river.

FROM NORFOLK.

The Negro Question in the Army.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

Norfolk, Va., Aug. 4, 1862.

The N. Y. Herald and its correspondents to the contrary notwithstanding, permit one who knows to assure you that THE TRIBUNE is read in the army, and that its influence is being felt. Many times have I seen a group of officers or of enlisted men gathered about one of their number reading aloud from THE TRIBUNE. The consequence is that the great questions of the age—confiscation, with the employment of blacks in the Government service, and Emancipation—have been thoroughly discussed, and have caused no little agitation in camp circles. Candid persons, of all shades of opinion, read THE TRIBUNE and hold it in respect for its consistency and high tone. For the entire want of these characteristics do they cherish a wholesome disgust for your traitorous contemporaries.

Although it has been sometimes asserted that there were negroes in the Rebel ranks, yet I do not believe any other use has ever been made of them than requiring them to dig and do camp drudgery. The reason of such belief will be found in the significant reply given me by an intelligent mulatto woman, a day or two since, to the question—if she had ever seen any black men in the Rebel army. Said she, with a look of surprise, “Not! The Seesch don't dare give arms to the colored folks!”

A still later dispatch, dated at Sperryville this morning, says that Col. Robinson, Provost-Marshall, to-day received orders to send 140 citizens of Sperryville and the surrounding country, who will not take the oath, beyond the lines of the National army. Tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock the procession will begin to move. It will start from the guard-house in Sperryville, take the most direct road to Madison, thence to St. Standardville, and enter Dixie not far from Charlottesville. During the march the most appropriate dirges will be performed.

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than any race I have ever seen. Such I give as the result of my observation; and I believe there is nothing of which the Richmond conspirators stand in such mortal dread as the just but terrible storm of wrath which would burst over their heads, should we commence liberating and drilling the blacks.

I confidently assert that a swarthy brigade, capable of as good service as any now on the muster rolls of the army, could be organized here in a short time.

There are individuals connected with the army, and wearing the insignia of office, with whom the proposition to employ contrabands in the service of the Government meets with decided disfavor—nay, who threaten to resign whenever that step is taken. Shall I tell you “of what manner of man” these officers are? They are of the kind whose political horizon is bounded on the one hand by a “dead Abolitionist,” and on the other by a “nigger.” At the beginning of the Rebellion, they insisted that the Abolitionists were the cause of it all, and that South had been greatly wronged, and they met with a change of heart only when their intellects comprehended the fact that all the offices in the gift of the people were to be bestowed upon those who, without qualification, stood by the Constitution and the Union. Were they at home now, their voices would be heard at your “Conservative” and “Peace” gatherings. At heart they are little better than traitors. Some of them sit in high places, and give lengthy “audiences,” protections, and passes upon which the words “oath taken” are, but the words “without molestation or interruption” are not erased, to the most bitter and outspoken of transgressors.

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FROM GEN. POPE'S ARMY

Reports by a Rebel Deserter—Capture of Rebel Supplies—Disloyal Citizens of Sperryville Sent South.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1862.

The latest advices from Sperryville state that a deserter from the 7th Virginia Cavalry had come within the lines, having left Gordonsville last Saturday. He says there is a very large force at Gordonsville and Standardville; that reinforcements are arriving daily from both the North and South, and that it is their intention to attack Gen. Pope, whip him, if they can, and then fall upon McClellan. The most advanced brigade of Gen. Sigel's corps is now subsisting entirely upon the enemy. About 1,000 barrels of flour has been seized in the vicinity of Madison, and enough fat cattle to supply them a month. Eight thousand pounds of bacon and 2,000 pounds of salt were found upon the plantation of a Rebel. The old corn and oats have been all consumed by both armies. Nearly all the houses in Sigel's corps are subsisting upon hay cut from the meadows of the Rebels.

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Seven Bushwhackers and Fifty Cattle Captured by our Scouts.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

SPERRYVILLE, Va., Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1862.

Five genuine bushwhackers, two from nine miles beyond Luray and three from Standardville, were brought to headquarters this morning. They were heavily armed with rifles, muskets and revolvers. Two of the rifles were double shot. They were mounted upon speeded horses, but after making desperate attempts to escape were finally ridden down and captured.

A scouting party has just returned from Luray bringing in forty-four head of fat cattle and two more bushwhackers, both of whom were badly wounded before they were taken. One of them has since had his arm amputated. One of the bushwhackers proves to be a Rebel Captain.

A Successful Reconnaissance—Divine Service in the Field—Military Orders.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA.

Camp near Washington, Va., Aug. 2, 1862.

Brief dispatches were received to-day from Gen. Crawford, announcing the successful result of a reconnaissance by two regiments of cavalry, which was extended to Orange Court-House, a point of some importance. The 5th New York and 1st Vermont were sent forward from Culpeper on the 2d, under Gen. Crawford. Near the Court-House they were attacked by two regiments and a battalion of Rebel cavalry. After a sharp fight the Rebels were driven back and pursued to the town, with a loss on their side of 11 killed, many wounded and 52 prisoners brought away by Gen. Crawford; among them, one Major, a Captain, and two Lieutenants. Of the Union forces, ten were killed and three wounded, whose names have not been received. After driving out the Rebels, Gen. Crawford destroyed a considerable portion of the telegraph and railroad from Orange Court House to Gordonsville, and having obtained all the information desired, and accomplished the purpose of the reconnaissance, retired.

The Rebels shortly after were re-enforced by a regiment of infantry, the 6th Virginia, whose cheers were heard by our men as they were leaving the town. The infantry followed at a distance the retreating forces as far as the river, but made no attempt to attack them or to intercept their march.

Since the first dispatches, no fuller accounts have been received; but it is evident that this, though called a reconnaissance, is another of the successful cavalry marches which, at Beaver Dam and elsewhere, have penetrated the Rebel lines, threatened and temporarily broken their communications, and, as an evidence of the activity and vigorous policy which has guided them, have disconcerted and alarmed the Rebels. Fuller accounts may be expected in the shape of official reports in a few days.

Sunday seems to be the day of all others for military spectacles. Conforming to custom, Gen. Pope to-day inspected as much of the corps of Gen. Banks as happens to be encamped within convenient distance of these headquarters. There were no bataillons or other movements, and the display gave only an opportunity to observe the general appearance and bearing of the troops. The field in which they were drawn up has little or no level ground, but I learn that Gen. Banks maneuvers his divisions in mass, even on this unfavorable ground, with rapidity and precision. There was a drill by division the day

after Gen. Pope arrived, but it was not known here that it was to take place, and no one saw it. Yesterday I was detained elsewhere until the ceremony of inspection was over, and arrived only in time to see the troops draw up for services. The Generals and staffs in the center. There are not many cathedrals or congregations like these of yesterday. Perhaps on the quarter deck of a frigate, the service and the scene are equally impressive, or more so, but there the effect of masses of men is wanting.

Here was an irregular and uneven valley sloping away from enclosing hills, beyond which to the west the Blue Ridge closed the view, and over all the bluest arch of the Summer sky, out of which the sunlight streamed into the deepest recesses. On one hill-side was the solid mass of dark blue, with a blustering crest of gleaming steel, and on the next the artillery, all within sound of the Chaplin's voice. His services were very short—a few verses from the Bible, a prayer to which all heads uncrossed, a five-minute sermon, and four lines of a hymn. The familiar tunes of home worship on martial instruments of music, and the household words of Scripture that were read, could not but carry the minds of these soldiers back to the quiet villages and farms they had left, where in the same service, at the same hour, they were remembered by dearest friends.

The 6th New-York is ordered to Warrenton Sulphur Springs, to recruit the health of the command. The Purse Legion is to guard the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad between Calvert's Station and Culpepper Court-House, to which latter place the public stores at Warrenton are to be transferred. The headquarters of the Legion will be at the crossing of the Rappahannock. Anybody who will take the trouble to look at the map and observe the relative positions of Warrenton and Culpepper Court-House, may discover that the operations of this army are not wholly on a stationary line, and that Culpepper is considerably nearer Richmond than the depot first established. I annex copies of the last two general orders:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA,

NEAR SPERRYVILLE, Va., Aug. 2, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS.—No. 12. An officer of this army shall be associated with the heads of the departments in the army, the commander-in-chief, or any other military officer at Washington, except through the proper military channels.

By command of M^r. G^r. Pope.

R. O. SELBYER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA,

NEAR SPERRYVILLE, Va., Aug. 2, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS.—No. 13. An officer of this army shall be associated with the heads of the departments in the army, the commander-in-chief, or any other military officer at Washington, except through the proper military channels.

By command of M^r. G^r. Pope.

G. E. BROWN, Col. 11th Pa.

SEVENTY-FIVE AGAINST A THOUSAND.

BRAVERY OF OUR MEN.

CAPTURE OF ALEXANDRIA, MO.

PALMIRA, Mo., Aug. 6, 1862.

A severe fight occurred at Newark, Knox County, Mo., on Friday evening last.

About 1,000 guerrillas, under Porter, approached the town an hour before sunset, and were met by parts of two companies of State militia, under Capt. Lain, numbering 75 men.

The guerrillas charged on our troops and were repulsed, when they dismounted and drove Capt. Lain into the town, where a severe struggle took place, resulting in the capitulation of our forces, who were immediately paroled by the guerrillas.

Our loss was four killed and four wounded. The Rebels acknowledged seventy-three killed and a large number wounded.

Porter's gang carried off all the arms and camp equipage of our troops.

On Sunday, the State forces of Cole, Guit, Meigs, Clapper, and Caldwell passed through Newark in pursuit of Porter.

PALMIRA, Mo., Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1862.

Saturday evening a band of 100 guerrillas took possession of Alexandria, Mo. They then seized all the arms and ammunition they could find, and did considerable other plundering, after which they left.

PALMIRA, Mo., Wednesday, Aug. 6, 1862.

About 300 men went down on Sunday from Keokuk, and arrested 30 Rebel sympathizers and took them to Keokuk.

AFFAIRS IN KENTUCKY.

1861 and 1862—Effect of the Morgan Raid—Unionism not from Moral Suasion, but Rebel Coercion—How the Confederacy Act is Viewed—Kentucky Rebels and Indiana Democracy—Suppression of a Rebel Sheet.

From Our Special Correspondent.

Louisville, Aug. 1, 1862.

A year ago Kentucky was still wrapped in the delusion of neutrality. Deceived by the experiences of the three months following the first uprising of the North for the suppression of the Pro-Slavery rebellion, her people flattered themselves that they might continue exempt from participation in the struggle between the two sections. Their neutral hopes and wishes faded from want of that true loyalty and patriotism that is always ready to sacrifice individual well-being to the weal of the nation—from instinctive perception of the dangers to the all-absorbing interest in human chattelhood, involved in co-operation in the civil strife—and, above all, from selfish calculations of the advantages of remaining more spectators of the war. Neutrality had been a profligate. While all the avenues of trade between the rebellious and Free States were closed, Kentucky had enjoyed but nominally restricted intercourse with the former during the Spring and Summer. The whole dealers and manufacturers of this her commercial emporium had never seen such prosperous days as in that period. The exhaustion of stocks—the impossibility to fill crowding orders from inefficiency of manufacturing capacities and the want of shipping facilities were, indeed, then the only limits to the business of Louisville, to which the blockade had forced nearly the whole South to become tributary. Nor were the profits of neutrality confined to Louisville. The interior of the State found them equally great. The agricultural population likewise reaped a harvest of Southern gold. Stock and the products of the soil were as eagerly demanded and as largely supplied as the wares of the metropolis of Louisville.

Two months later, and the delusion was gone. What Northern arguments and forcements failed to do, rebel force brought about. The equivocal position President Lincoln allowed the State to occupy, Buckner forced her to abandon. No better blow could be struck for the benefit of the North by the Reb^l Government than the invasion of Southern Kentucky. It forced at once the conviction upon the neutrals that the South was determined to drag their State out of its passive attitude—to visit upon her the very ravages of war, the very loss and insecurity of property, they had so long, so ingenuously, so selflessly abhorred; and that there now remained to them but one hope, one means of averting the dreaded calamities—to invoke the assistance of the Federal Government in removing the thomer of war from the soil of the State. This Kentucky became actively loyal—her previous wavering was worse than enmity—not of course, but rather of fear.

As Kentucky was fairly loyalized by Reb^l aggression in '61, so her Unionism was intensified by like influences in '62. Sam'l Bolivar Buckner was a more no active and successful propagandist in behalf of the Union than John Morgan. He applied arguments ad hominem—the stimulus most powerful with those that lead the destinies of the State; they interposed with their property. The wealthy class, that is, in as every other slaveholding State, determines the social and political tone of the community, considered it wise, for the safety of their negroes, to identify their fortunes with the North. They love their negroes much, but their horses less, and hence Morgan's abstractions of the latter have strengthened their belief in the wisdom of their Unionism. That during漫漫 winter has done much harm, but much good. Every horse he sold—every cow he emptied—every house he plundered, invigorated the sympathies of Kentuckians with the loyal cause. Nor was this all. Contemporary as his horsey was almost with the passage of the Confiscation bill, it furnished the most telling illustration of its justice that could possibly be made before the eyes of Border States men. It hardened their therefore self loyalty in a remarkable degree. It would be difficult to find any kind of a cry, whether peace or war. We are fighting from principle and not for territory, and for that reason I say extirpate and lay waste the whole country styling itself the Southern Confederacy.

It makes me mad to think that one of Uncle Sam's armies is cut off so much from the North that they have to live on half rations, while there are plenty of provisions in this State and in Tennessee to support the army all summer; but Uncle Sam is so afraid of hurting the feelings of some of the "Southern brethren," that he would not touch a pig or an ear of corn for the life of his soldiers.

As Kentucky was the first to be converted by Reb^l force, Ward, the protector of the Blue Grass region pending the Morgan raid, was certainly to have it. A more pliable military force in human shape never walked the land. It is well known that he was made a Brigadier by mistake—that in consequence of a misreading of Mr. Holt as to the appreciation in